



GET YOUR GROUP TALKING

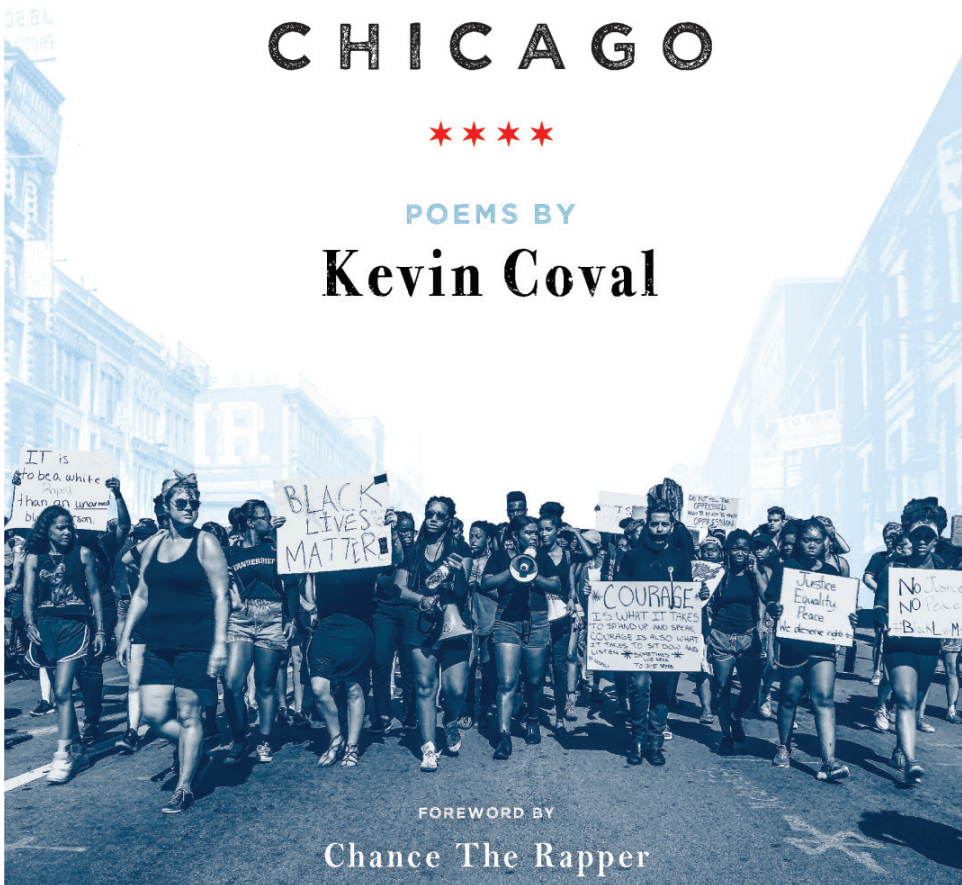
#1Book1OP

A
PEOPLE'S
HISTORY
OF
CHICAGO



POEMS BY

Kevin Coval



FOREWORD BY

Chance The Rapper

oppl.org/one-book

OAK PARK PUBLIC LIBRARY



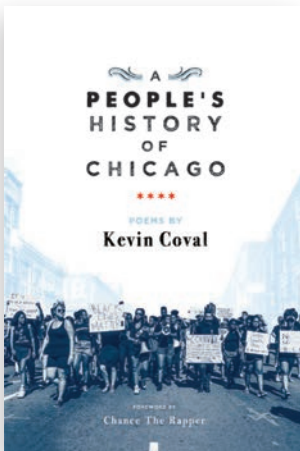
This summer's One Book, One Oak Park pick is a collection of poems celebrating the hidden history of Chicago from the perspective of everyday people, the 99 percent.

In *A People's History of Chicago*, poet Kevin Coval—who founded the youth poetry festival Louder Than a Bomb and teaches hip-hop aesthetics at the University of Illinois-Chicago—honors people of color, working people, and the poor as he traces the city's history in 77 poems. He dives into topics like the race riots of 1919, Disco Demolition in 1979, and the 2015 police shooting of 17-year-old Laquan McDonald.

“Coval’s poetry is all about lifting up hidden voices,” said Librarian and One Book Coordinator Margita Lidaka. “It is also the first time the library is reading and discussing poetry as a community-wide effort.”

Now in its fifth year, One Book, One Oak Park is our community-wide summer reading program for adults and teens. It offers neighbors, families, and friends opportunities to connect, learn, and grow by reading and discussing themes explored in one specific title.

Library copies are available in print and as ebooks on OverDrive. Find discussion guides and all events at oppl.org/one-book.



“We are reading this book about Chicago, but we want to tie in and visit the Oak Park connections by themes.”

—Deputy Director Jim Madigan

The book’s themes include the African-American, Latinx, LGBTQ, and working-class experiences; celebrating the arts, poets, and poetry; and building the city of Chicago.



Photo courtesy of Kevin Coval

About the author: KEVIN COVAL

Poet and community builder Kevin Coval is the author of 10 books, editor of *The BreakBeat Poets: New American Poetry in the Age of Hip-Hop*, and co-writer of the play *This Is Modern Art*, which premiered at Steppenwolf Theater in 2015. Additionally, he is the Artistic Director of Young

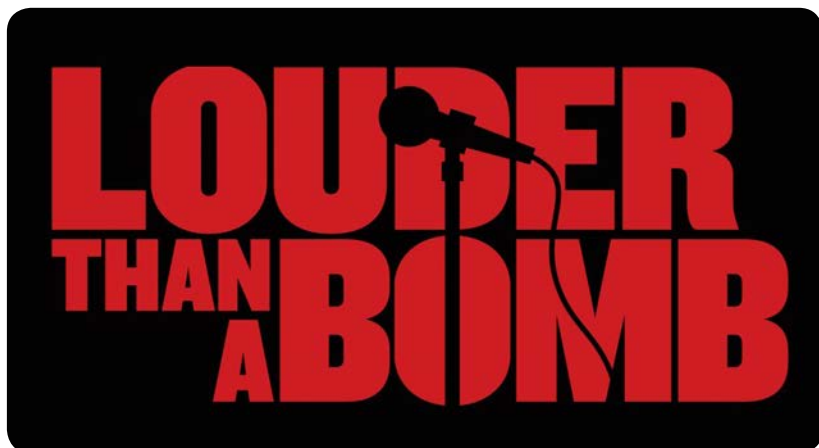
Chicago Authors—winner of a MacArthur Award for Creative and Effective Institutions in 2016—founder of Louder Than a Bomb: The Chicago Youth Poetry Festival, and co-host of the WGN Radio podcast *The CornerStore*. His work has appeared on *The Daily Show*, four seasons of HBO’s *Def Poetry Jam*, CNN.com, *Poetry Magazine*, and the blog Fake Shore Drive. He is the editor of the Haymarket Books imprint BreakBeat Publishing, which is dedicated to publishing radically fresh voices, and teaches hip-hop poetics in high schools, colleges, and community centers around the globe. Find him on Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook @kevincoval.

From PoetryFoundation.org: “Coval was raised in the suburbs of Chicago and educated at Ohio University, the University of Wales, and DePaul University. His brave, socially engaged poems weave together personal experience and calls to action. *The Chicago Tribune* has named him “the voice of the new Chicago,” and the *Boston Globe* calls him “the city’s unofficial poet laureate.”

▶ WATCH THIS!

Watch Coval’s appearance on *The Daily Show*: bit.ly/2K7X2LY





ART & action

FILM SCREENING: *BLACK CHÉ: THE BLACK PANTHER*

Sunday, July 8, 3–5 pm, Main Library Veterans Room. Billy Che Brooks, a lifetime warrior in the battle for peace and prosperity for oppressed people worldwide speaks on his years as the deputy minister of education of the Black Panther Party in Illinois.

INSTALLATION: REMEMBER

Monday, July 16, 4–5:30 pm, Main Library Plaza. Black Lives Matter. Join us in remembering the fallen for their grins and not for their sins. Use chalk to write what you never got to say.

IN CONCERT: SNAKE DOCTORS AND LANCE

Saturday, July 21, 2–4 pm, Main Library Community Engagement Space. Music by the Snake Doctors featuring George Bailey and Carl Spight, followed by special guests Lance.

® PILSEN MURAL TOUR

Sunday, July 22, 2–3 pm, Off-site: National Museum of Mexican Art, 1852 W. 19th St., Chicago. Meet at the National Museum of Mexican Art for a tour of the Pilsen neighborhood and community art led by poet and vocalist Luis Tubens, the library's first artist in residence. In case of inclement weather, please check oppl.org/calendar for updates. Museum entry is free. Register now.

WATCH & DISCUSS: *LOUDER THAN A BOMB*

Tuesday, Aug. 14, 2–4 pm, Main Library Veterans Room. Watch the 2010 documentary and stay for a discussion led by Peter Kahn of Oak Park and River Forest High School's Spoken Word Club.

® Some events require registration. Register now at oppl.org/calendar.



LISTEN AT oppl.org/one-book



#LISTEN #1BOOK1OP





BOOK *discussions*

DISCUSS THE BOOK

Connect with your neighbors as part of this summer's One Book, One Oak Park title selection discussion.

- **Tuesday, July 10, 7–8:30 pm**, Dole Branch Meeting Room
- **Wednesday, Aug. 8, 6–7 pm**, Off-site: Two Brothers Social Tap (100 S. Marion St., Oak Park)

POEM & PLACE

Join us, talking through themes and exploring Oak Park connections in this summer's community read. Led by library staff Jim Madigan and Kelly Knowles on these three dates (weather permitting):

- **Monday, July 16, 6–7:30 pm**,
Southwest corner of Ridgeland Avenue and Lake Street
Poems to discuss: *The Assassination of Chairman Fred Hampton* and *Lenard Clark Pedals for Air*
- **Monday, July 23, 6–7:30 pm**,
Northwest corner of Lombard Avenue and Washington Boulevard.
Special Guest: Steve Levitt, Old Town School of Folk Music
Poems to discuss: *Studs Terkel Drops a Mixtape* and *Muddy Waters Goes Electric*
- **Sunday, Aug. 5, 5–7 pm**,
Lobby Oak Park Arms, Oak Park Avenue and Washington Boulevard
Poems to discuss: *The Great Migration* and *Ron Hardy Plays the Record Backwards*

THEMES *to explore*

Curious about going deeper? Library staff assembled this list of themes, specific poems (with print edition page numbers), and related content. If you use a theme listed here or create your own, let us know how it works for you at oppl.org/contact.

THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

- The Great Migration, page 15
- The Murder of Eugene Williams, page 18
- Mamie Till Bears the Movement, page 35
- Martin Luther King Prays in Marquette Park, page 38
- The Assassination of Chairman Fred Hampton, page 46
- Lenard Clark Pedals for Air, page 81

RELATED LIBRARY RESOURCES

- *Eyes on the Prize* (DVD and Kanopy)
- *The Murder of Fred Hampton* (DVD)
- *American Revolution 2* (DVD)
- *The Warmth of Other Suns* by Isabel Wilkerson
- *The People Could Fly* by Virginia Hamilton
- *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* by Michelle Alexander

THE WORKING CLASS EXPERIENCE

- Albert Parsons Can Hang, page 9
- Reversing the Flow of the Chicago River, page 14
- The Eastland Disaster, page 16
- Republic Windows Workers Sit In, page 94
- Teachers' Strike in the Chicago Tradition, page 108

RELATED LIBRARY RESOURCES

- *Haymarket Scrapbook* by David Roediger
- *The 1937 Chicago Steel Strike: Blood on the Prairie* by John F. Hogan
- *Working* by Studs Terkel
- *Studs Terkel's Working, a graphic adaptation* by Harvey Pekar

THEMES *to explore cont.*

THE LATINX, LGBTQ EXPERIENCE

- How to Be Down, page 10
- Society for Human Rights (America's First Gay Rights Organization), page 19
- The Division Street Rights, page 37
- The Assassination of Rudy Lozano, page 58
- Dia de las Madras, page 89
- During Ramadan the Gates of Heaven Are Open, page 110

RELATED LIBRARY RESOURCES

- *Pots of Promise: Mexicans and Pottery at Hull House* by Cheryl Ganz
- *Jane Addams: A Biography* by J.W. Linn
- *Nothing Personal: Chronicles of Chicago's LGBTQ Community 1977-1997* by Jon-Henri Damski
- *Out and Proud in Chicago* by Tracy Baim
- *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros

CELEBRATING THE ARTS

- Thomas Dorsey, Gospel's Daddy, page 21
- Hansberry vs. Lee, page 26
- Muddy Waters Goes Electric, page 28
- Nelson Algren Meets Simone de Beauvoir at The Palmer House, page 29
- Sun Ra Becomes a Synthesizer, page 33
- Wall of Respect, page 43
- AfriCOBRA, page 44
- Ron Hardy Plays the Record Backwards, page 56
- An Elegy for Dr. Margaret Burroughs, page 100

RELATED LIBRARY RESOURCES

- *Say Amen, Somebody* (DVD)
- *Muddy Waters* (CD)
- *Cosmos by Sun Ra* (CD)
- *The Black Arts Movement* by David Robson
- *Easter Realness #2* by Kehinde Wiley

CELEBRATING POETS AND POETRY

- Gwendolyn Brooks Stands in the Mecca, page 23
- Don L. Lee Becomes Haki Madhubuti, page 48
- Marc Smith Invents the Poetry Slam, page 59
- How to Teach Poetry in Chicago Public Schools, page 79
- A Dedication to the Inaugural Poet, page 103

RELATED LIBRARY RESOURCES

- *Louder Than a Bomb* (DVD)
- *A Surprised Queenhood in the New Black Sun: The Life & Legacy of Gwendolyn Brooks* by Angela Jackson
- *Yellowblack* by Haki Madhubuti

BUILDING THE CITY OF CHICAGO

- Shikaakwa, page 1
- lasalle Wrote It Down Wrong, page 2
- The Treaty of Chicago, page 6
- Hog Butcher of the World, page 7
- The L Gets Open, page 11
- The white City, page 12
- king daley Unfurls His burnham Plan, page 36
- Carl Sandburg Village (Where My Parents Met), page 41
- The Chicago 21 Plan, page 49

RELATED LIBRARY RESOURCES

- *History of Chicago* by A.T. Andreas
- *The Devil in the White City* by Erik Larson
- *Chicago Poems* by Carl Sandburg (Hoopla)
- *Women Building Chicago 1790-1990* by Rima L. Schultz

WE ASKED, YOU ANSWERED

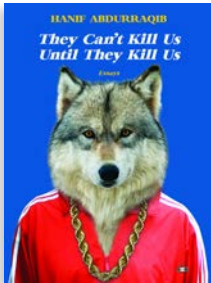
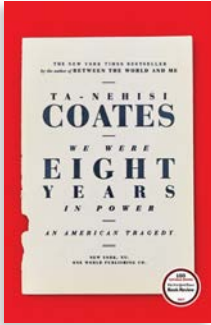
Last year, we asked One Book, One Oak Park participants to share their thoughts on the program. Here's what you had to say:

- 93% would recommend One Book to others.
- 75% said participation changed their thinking on the topic.
- At 20%, from “family and friends” was the #1 way people heard about the community summer reading program. Social/internet media was a close second at 18%.

Want even more titles like *A PEOPLE'S HISTORY OF CHICAGO?*

Try these read, listen, and watch-alikes.

More: oppl.org/one-book

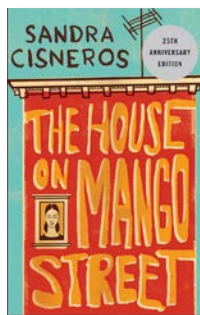


READ THESE NONFICTION TITLES

- *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness* by Michelle Alexander
- *We Were Eight Years in Power: An American Tragedy* by Ta-Nehisi Coates
- *Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City* by Matthew Desmond
- *Chicago Flashback: The People and Events That Shaped Chicago* by Chicago Tribune
- *Night Is Gone, Day Is Still* by Annette Ochoa et al.
- *They Can't Kill Us Until They Kill Us* by Hanif Willis-Abdurraqib
- *Electric Arches* by Eve L. Ewing
- *Our Black Year: One Family's Quest To Buy Black in America's Racially Divided Economy* by Maggie Anderson

READ THESE FICTION TITLES

- *The House on Mango Street* by Sandra Cisneros
- *Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi
- *The Jungle* by Upton Sinclair
- *Trickster: Native American Tales* by Matt Dembicki
- *Graffiti Palace* by A.G. Lombardo
- *Yummy: The Last Days of a Southside Shorty* by Greg Neri



LISTEN TO THESE PODCASTS

- *Pod Save the People*
- *Homemade Stories*
- *Curious City*
- *This American Life* episodes 562 & 563: "The Problem We All Live With"



WATCH THESE FILMS

- *70 Acres in Chicago*
- *The Interrupters*
- *Louder Than a Bomb*
- *Something From Nothing: The Art of Rap*
- *Style Wars*
- *Dear White People* (movie or show)
- *Whose Streets*
- *Chicago: City of a Century*





Longtime library staffers Kelly Knowles (left) and Jim Madigan (right) pose with artwork by Margaret Burroughs, who is also mentioned on page 100 of *A People's History of Chicago*. Kelly and Jim plan to lead three “Poem & Place” book discussions this summer. The visits to significant Oak Park sites are intended to deepen readers’ connections between Coval’s poetry and Oak Park’s history. For more, see page 6 and oppl.org/one-book.

MAIN LIBRARY

834 Lake St.

708.383.8200

Mon.–Thurs.: 9 am–9 pm

Friday: 9 am–6 pm

Saturday: 9 am–5 pm

Sunday: 1–6 pm

DOLE BRANCH LIBRARY

255 Augusta Ave.

708.386.9032

Monday: Closed

Tues.–Thurs.: 10 am–9 pm

Friday: 10 am–6 pm

Saturday: 10 am–5 pm

Sunday: 1–6 pm

MAZE BRANCH LIBRARY

834 Gunderson Ave.

708.386.4751

Mon.–Thurs.: 10 am–9 pm

Friday: Closed

Saturday: 10 am–5 pm

Sunday: 1–6 pm

OAK PARK
PUBLIC LIBRARY



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